

shocker: The ever-balanced media, far from exposing their hypocrisy, are leading the way for calls in campaign finance reform.

How many times have we heard our liberal elite friends in the media say, "The real tragedy is not what is illegal but what is legal." Yes, shaking down impoverished Indian tribes, illegally mixing DNC funds with Teamster money, soliciting money from foreign nationals, laundering money and shredding evidence; no, I suppose that is not the real tragedy.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM A MUST TO HAVE A DEMOCRACY WORTH PROTECTING

(Mr. BLAGOJEVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Madam Speaker, let me first of all start by quoting Winston Churchill, who said, "Democracy is the worst system ever devised by man, except for all the rest."

I think there is a clear need for campaign finance reform. I am a new Member and, clearly, most Members agree there is something wrong with the way we fund our campaigns and fuel our democracy. When we spend all the time we spend trying to raise money to get here, and when we consider all of the special interest money that helps us get elected to office, if that system is not corrupting, it certainly is corruptible.

We have an opportunity in this Congress to do something real about campaign finance reform. We live in a very special place. We live in the greatest country in the history of human history, and the reason we do is because of our system of government that is based on the consent of the governed. Unless the governed believe that we are acting in good faith and are truly trying to govern them in a fair way, we will not have a democracy worth protecting.

We must pass some form of campaign finance reform in this Congress if we are going to preserve what Abe Lincoln said is our last best hope on Earth.

FREEDOM MUST NOT BE COMPROMISED IN THE NAME OF REFORM

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, for any democracy to work, it must have fair and honest elections. To have fair and honest elections, the people running for office must follow the law. Some people want to change those laws despite overwhelming evidence that they were broken during the last campaign by the Clinton-Gore reelection team.

Madam Speaker, I support efforts to make our elections more fair and honest. I support giving the American people the best information possible about

candidates. I support full disclosure, so that the voters know where the money is coming from. And I support the current laws that have been broken with regularity by the Clinton-Gore campaign team. But I will not support any so-called reform effort that limits the freedom of American citizens to participate in the political process.

We must not compromise freedom in the name of reform.

REPUBLICANS HIDING BEHIND PREVIOUS ABUSES AND NOT ALLOWING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM TO TAKE PLACE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, if it is illegal, prosecute it, but do not hide behind it as the Republicans have been doing throughout this session.

Indeed, our Republican colleagues came into this Congress in 1995 promising revolutionary change, and they have given us nothing but the most modest and cosmetic touchover of the way business as usual is conducted in this body.

If they had any real interest in revolutionary change in the way this Congress operates, campaign finance would have been considered in January 1995. Instead, we have had nothing but delays. And this year, having failed to reform the system in time for the last election, they are hiding behind any abuses that occurred, Democrat or Republican, in the last election, to defeat reform this time.

Even as our colleagues down the hall in the other body debate genuine campaign finance reform, they continue to refuse to schedule 1 minute for real debate, for presentation of bipartisan proposals on the floor of this House.

DEMOCRATS ATTEMPTING TO CONFUSE AND DISORIENT PUBLIC ABOUT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. RYUN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN. Madam Speaker, when I was a young boy growing up in the great State of Kansas, my friends used to play a game in which we would blindfold someone, spin them around until disoriented, and then hand them a paper tail with a thumbtack attached and point them toward a wall where a donkey was drawn. While blindfolded they were to pin the tail on the donkey.

That game represents what the Democrats are doing to the public. They have attempted to confuse and disorient the general public on campaign finance reform. Madam Speaker, this must stop.

The Democrats wrote the campaign finance rules when they were in the

majority. The Democrats have now broken the rules while they are in the minority. Let us remove that mask and unblindfold the public.

Before we consider fixing campaign finance reform, let us pin the tail of blame fully on the Democratic donkey, and find out what went wrong with the Democrats first before we change the system.

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IN SUPPORT OF FAIR REPRESENTATION FOR LATINOS

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, the Republicans are trying to deny the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] the seat she won in a fair election. They are carrying out an investigation whose only purpose is to harass and intimidate the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] and Latino voters.

Now they are trying to prevent an accurate count in the 2000 census. By not counting Latinos, opponents of a fair census can justify slashing resources to these communities. By pretending that millions of people do not exist, Latinos are silent at every level, from school boards all the way up to Presidential elections.

Well, I have news for the Republicans. Latinos will not be silenced. Recently, the Republicans passed out a memo about how to appeal to Latinos. Well, the Republicans need to learn a lesson about politics. By insulting our community this way, they will never get another Latino to join the Republican Party.

MY, HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Madam Speaker, my, how things have changed. George Washington, the Father of our Nation, was obsessed with the idea of establishing a national character. He believed in the marrow of his bones that the esteem and success of a nation derived above all from one thing and one thing only.

It was not the strength of its army, the wealth of its resources, the level of taxation extracted from its citizens, nor was it the refinement of his laws. No, Washington believed that the esteem and success of a nation derived above all from the virtue of its people.

To General Washington, the greatness of a nation and the greatness of its people lay in the moral character of individuals. He wrote that "A good moral character is the first essential of man."

How different things are today in the city that bears the name of such a great American hero. We see daily a